



STINGER SPORTS

1986-87 HOCKEY OUTLOOK

As Paul Arsenault heads into his 23rd year behind the bench as head coach and director of hockey operations for the Concordia Stingers he has every reason to be optimistic.

With 10 returning lettermen and a number of promising rookies the Stingers hope to challenge defending champion Trois Rivieres for top spot in the Quebec University Hockey League. (QUHL).

Winners of nine consecutive QUHL championships between 1975 and 1984 the Stingers saw that streak come to an end two years ago when they completed the regular season out of the playoffs with a 5-13-2 conference mark. Last season the team improved to 7-12-1 taking Trois Rivieres to the limit in a best of three playoff series.

Two prominent returnees this year are five year veteran "Fearless" Frankie Morris and captain Giles Lascelle, an all-star defenceman entering his fourth season. Morris is a hardnosed competitor who has accumulated 573 penalty minutes as a Stinger. The Alexandria, Ontario, native can also put the puck in the net. In 33 games last season he scored 24 goals and added 16 assists.

Arsenault says his team will start stronger this year largely because of second year goaltender Ken Hrivnak, who readily proved himself between the pipes during the latter part of the 1985-86 campaign. Jeff Carter, an 18 goal, 10 assist man last year, provides some punch up front, while Bowling Green University transfer Martin Foy anchors the defence. He joined the club midway through last season.

The Stingers will have to fill the skates of some very key players. Forward Mark Kosturik, Concordia's all-time leading scorer with 257 points, has graduated and is now playing professionally in Europe. Forwards Franco Iammateo, Brent Cater, Dave Poeta, Richard Vermette, Richard Blanchette and defencemen Neil Trineer and Brian Parrott have also departed.

Newcomers to keep an eye on are highly recruited winger Dan Nummakoski from the Brockville Junior Braves, former Quebec Major Junior Hockey League performers Peter Dirinaldo (left wing) and Wray Quigley (defence) and Champlain College graduate Dino Asselin (defence). Forwards Senan Foley and Al Rekunyk both turned down United States College scholarships to join the Stingers.

The Stingers will be off to Europe during the Christmas break for a series of games in Czechoslovakia and Switzerland.

Concordia defeated University of Brandon Bobcats 6-3 Thursday October 9 in non-conference action. The club's next game is Friday October 24 when University of Toronto will be the visitors.

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